



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

APR 07 2016

Pat Breysse, PhD
Director, National Center for Environmental Health
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
4770 Buford Hwy, NE
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pjb7@cdc.gov

Dear Dr. Breysse:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I want to express our sincere appreciation for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) continuing efforts with the Community Environmental Health Assessment Team (CEHAT), as part of the Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH) process, in helping the South Gate community identify local environmental issues, set priorities, and guide the creation and implementation of a plan of action to address environmental health issues from the community's perspective.

ATSDR's assistance is crucial in helping the CEHAT to achieve its goal "to contribute to make a South Gate that is beautiful, safe, educated, represented, healthy, sustainable, prosperous, clean, and united."

ATSDR's support of the CEHAT has included: making funding available to CDPH so that they are able to facilitate the CEHAT and dedicate significant staff time to facilitating the PACE EH; guiding CDPH and the group on the PACE EH; attending CEHAT events and meetings; and providing input and serving as PACE EH resources throughout this process.

ATSDR's continuing commitment to the CEHAT will support the South Gate community group as they implement plans for action to address their self-identified priorities. To that end, we recognize the significant amount of resources that ATSDR has dedicated to the PACE EH process. EPA believes that the success enjoyed by the CEHAT during the past months is due to the support and cooperation of the many participants – community members, business owners, local, state, federal agencies, and the City of South Gate – and we commend ATSDR for its support in helping to bring this diverse and collaborative team together.

As you and your staff consider the CEHAT's path going forward, please keep in mind that the EPA will remain focused on engaging and educating the community in our work on the Cooper Drum, Southern Avenue Industrial Area, and Jervis Webb Superfund sites, and through our

involvement with the CEHAT. EPA places great importance on community involvement and engagement, and through our participation in the CEHAT, EPA is committed to answering questions that arise, providing site updates, bringing EPA programs other than Superfund into discussions as appropriate, engaging with the community to ensure community voices are heard, and physically participating in monthly CEHAT meetings.

Thank you for your continued involvement in the community of South Gate. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Karen Jurist of my staff at jurist.karen@epa.gov or by phone at 415-972-3219.

Sincerely,



Enrique Manzanilla
Director, Superfund Division

Cc:

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